

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image reading apparatus comprising:

a sensor section which includes a color line
sensor which reads a color image and a monochrome line
5 sensor which reads a monochrome image provided in
parallel with and a specific distance away from the
color line sensor;

an input section which inputs a document image to
the color line sensor and the monochrome line sensor;

10 and

a control section which, when reading an image
from a document by use of the input section, starts the
reading of an image by the color line sensor and the
reading of an image by the monochrome line sensor with
15 the same timing.

2. The image reading apparatus according to
claim 1, further comprising:

an operation section which accepts an image
reading mode instruction,

20 wherein the control section reads an image with
the same timing, regardless of the reading mode.

3. The image reading apparatus according to
claim 2, further comprising:

a storage section which stores, according to the
25 reading mode, color image data read by the color line
sensor and monochrome image data read by the monochrome
line sensor; and

an extraction control section which extracts,
according to the reading mode, image data in a
predetermined area from either the color image data or
the monochrome image data stored in the storage
5 section.

4. The image reading apparatus according to
claim 2, further comprising:
a storage section which stores image data; and
a storage control section which selects, according
10 to the reading mode, either a color image read by the
color line sensor or a monochrome image read by the
monochrome line sensor, extracts an image in a
predetermined area from either the selected color image
or monochrome image, and stores the image data in the
15 extracted area in the storage section.

5. The image reading apparatus according to
claim 1, further comprising:
a counter which counts a number corresponding to
the specific distance by which the color line sensor
20 and the monochrome line sensor are separated;
a first storage section which stores an image read
by the monochrome line sensor;
a second storage section which stores an image
read by the color line sensor; and
25 a start control section which starts to store an
image read by either the color line sensor or the
monochrome line sensor provided in a position

corresponding to the trailing edge in the image reading direction of the sensor section, after the counter has counted the number corresponding to the specific distance.

5 6. An image reading method comprising:

 accepting an instruction to read an image from a document; and

 starting the reading of an image by a color line sensor and the reading of an image by a monochrome line
10 sensor provided in parallel with and a specific distance away from the color line sensor with the same timing.

 7. The image reading method according to claim 6, further comprising:

15 accepting an image reading mode instruction, wherein

 the image reading is done with the same timing, regardless of the reading mode.

 8. The image reading method according to claim 7, further comprising:
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 storing, according to the reading mode, either color image data read by the color line sensor or monochrome image data read by the monochrome line sensor; and

25 extracting image data in a predetermined area from the stored image data according to the reading mode.

 9. The image reading method according to claim 7,

further comprising:

selecting, according to the reading mode, either
color image data read by the color line sensor or
monochrome image data read by the monochrome line
5 sensor;

extracting image data in a predetermined area from
the selected image data; and

storing the image data in the extracted area.

10 10. The image reading method according to claim 6,
further comprising:

counting a number corresponding to the specific
distance by which the color line sensor and the
monochrome line sensor are separated; and

15 storing image data read by either the color line
sensor or the monochrome line sensor provided on the
trailing edge side in the image reading direction,
after the number corresponding to the specific distance
is counted.

20 11. The image reading method according to
claim 10, further comprising:

discarding the image data read by either the color
line sensor or the monochrome line sensor provided on
the trailing edge side in the image reading direction,
before the number corresponding to the specific
25 distance is counted.